

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2824

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Health & Long-Term Care, February 28, 2002

Title: An act relating to conflict of interest provisions for the long-term care ombudsman program.

Brief Description: Revising conflict of interest provisions for the long-term care ombudsman program.

Sponsors: Representatives Skinner, Edwards and Chase.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/21/02, 2/28/02 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Thibaudeau, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Costa, Deccio, Fraser, Parlette and Winsley.

Staff: Rhoda Donkin (786-7198)

Background: Currently, long-term care ombudsmen cannot have been employed in a long-term care facility or have a financial interest in one within the past three years. There is no period of ineligibility for a person who has been employed in a governmental position involving licensing, certification, or regulation of a long-term care facility.

Summary of Bill: A period of ineligibility of one year is established for individuals interested in becoming a long-term care ombudsman if they (1) were employed or involved in the management of a long-term care facility; (2) were employed in a governmental position involving licensing, certification or regulation of long-term care facilities; (3) had a significant ownership or investment interest in a long-term care facility. A long-term care ombudsman is prohibited from being assigned to a long-term care facility if he or she has an immediate family member living there.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This will allow more qualified people to join the ombudsman program.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: PRO: Gene Forrester, Senior Citizens Lobby; Kary Hyre, LTC Ombudsman.